



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot

**CATWG PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
YSGOL GYNRADD CATWG



**Headteacher/Prifathrawes: Mrs Carol Bassett**

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

Today is the last day of term for pupils. Well done to the children for engaging with activities and for keeping in touch with teachers this week, we know how hard remote learning can be.

You will no doubt have seen media reports yesterday speculating about arrangements for the reopening of schools in January.

I am now in a position to clarify our arrangements.

Following instructions from the Local Authority, and taking account of Welsh Government guidance, I can tell you that Catwg will open to all pupils on **Thursday 7th January 2021**, if there is a change to this date because of local or national circumstances I will inform you on **Monday 4th January**.

We are of course going back into lockdown but we are hopeful that the school will not be affected, our wish is that we can continue with face to face teaching.

The extra two days at the beginning of term are to enable us to prepare for the safe return of pupils. Remote learning activities will not be provided during these days.

The information below is the statement being issued by the Local Authority, this further clarifies the decisions being made.

The R rate in NPT last week was over 800 per 100,000 population and this has been doubling every 7 days, these are frightening figures.

Enjoy this time with your families, and please take care of yourselves over the break.

We look forward to seeing the children on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**.

As always I'd like to thank you for your support in these challenging times.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Bassett  
Headteacher

## LOCAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

In reference to WG advice, all schools in NPT are advised to take two planning days at the beginning of next term in order to risk assess their capacity and ensure that robust processes are in place to support pupils' learning. These will be **in addition to** any planned INSET days.

Individual schools will advise parents on when the first day of opening for pupils will occur. However, this may be subject to review in light of the school's capacity in the first week of January. With transmission levels continuing to increase across Wales, and uncertainty over what impact that might have on school staffing levels over the Christmas break, we will need to build in some flexibility at the beginning of term.

The first day of opening will vary for each school because of planned INSET days.

Minimising disruption to our children and young people's education remains a priority and face to face learning should be the default position from the first day of opening to pupils unless there are clear public health and safety reasons for moving to remote learning or to restricted year groups.

From the first day that schools indicate they are open, they will be providing on site provision for vulnerable learners and children of critical workers from that point onwards regardless of capacity challenges.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school settings during the first week of January in order that they can benefit from the learning and wellbeing support that our school staff offer.

The plan to return to schools in January will give some certainty, whilst also allowing for flexibility to take account of local circumstances.

Teachers, school staff, learners, and parents and carers' response has been remarkable throughout this challenging year. It has not been easy, and we thank them for their continued patience and perseverance to help keep our communities safe.

To help curb the rapid spread of the virus, we must all continue to do all we can to protect ourselves, each other and our communities.